

FE-6

42 AIRGRAM

611.372.2/11-582

NR 611.78
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A-476

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AIR 2100CH

HANDLING INDICATOR

TO : DEPARTMENT OF STATE

INFO: MEDAN, SURABAYA

ANALYSIS & DISTRIBUTION
BRANCH

FROM : Amembassy DJAKARTA

DATE: Nov. 5, 1962

SUBJECT: Official Silence on Cuba

REF : Embassy A-439, A-417

To date, the Indonesian Government has maintained complete silence on the merits of the Cuban quarantine issue. XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
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The Government has taken this attitude in the face of virtually unanimous and widespread press condemnation of the American position on Cuba (airgrams under reference). Even more surprising, the Government's silence has been maintained against a background of warm official support for the Castro regime coupled with severe denunciations of United States policy which dates back almost to the very beginnings of the present split between the United States and Cuba.

The Government's unexpected repression of its earlier well-exhibited sympathies toward Cuba apparently results from the realization that unpleasant consequences might follow from antagonizing the United States on a matter which the latter obviously views as of vital national interest. The desire to maintain American good-will at this time is probably related to Indonesian hopes of obtaining meaningful economic assistance from the United States in order to ease the present serious plight of the Indonesian economy. Further, with Sukarno sounding out the Embassy about the possibility of a visit to the United States in the coming months (Embassy telegrams 736 and 696), the Government has another important reason for avoiding criticism of the United States on Cuba lest by doing so it jeopardizes Sukarno's chances for a successful financial and public relations venture on our shores. In this connection, there is also the possibility that Sukarno desires to maintain and further strengthen the strong personal rapport he feels he has with President Kennedy.

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Drafted by: *BL*
FCL:BLEvin:rh

Nov. 1, 1962

Contents and Classification Approved by:

FGL - J. F. O'Connor, Jr.

Clearances:

June

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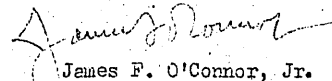
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On the basis of past performances, there appeared every reason to believe that the Cuban quarantine crisis would result in a communist-led demonstration before the Embassy. The absence of such an incident to date indicates that the Government, because of the considerations listed above, has taken appropriate steps to prevent the manifestation of a protesting crowd before the Embassy. That the Government has the ability to control communist-incited reactions to issues involving the United States was clearly evidenced some months ago by the complete absence of domestic comment on the release of Allen Pope, an American flyer sentenced to death for participation in the Permesta rebellion. (This silence has continued to date despite the by now widespread knowledge of his release.) Though this state of affairs is in some respect reassuring, it adds considerable weight to existing strong suspicions of governmental complicity in previous demonstrations before diplomatic missions in Indonesia.

For the Charge d'Affaires ad interim:


James F. O'Connor, Jr.
First Secretary

Post pass to info addressees.

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INCOMING TELEGRAM

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Control: 2892
Rec'd: NOVEMBER 8, 1962
2:02 PM

FROM: SURABAYA
TO: Secretary of State
NO: 7, NOVEMBER 8, 3 PM

NIACT

ACTION DEPARTMENT 7, INFORMATION DJAKARTA NIACT 49,

IRRESPONSIBLE ELEMENTS SIMULTANEOUSLY ATTACKED CONSULATE, PRINCIPAL OFFICERS RESIDENCE, AND USIS LIBRARY, AT 0500 TODAY. AT CONSULATE, OFFICE-EMPLOYED GUARD ESTIMATES YOUTH GROUP OF 20 BROKE TWO WINDOWS WITH ROCKS AND SCATTERED PAMPHLETS ("VIVA CUBA", "US AGGRESSOR", "BREAK BLOCKADE TO CUBA"). SEVERAL YOUTH APPREHENDED BY POLICE AND BEING QUESTIONED. AT RESIDENCE, ROCKS THROWN BREAKING THREE GLASS DOORS (ENTRANCE AND LIVING ROOM) AND OUTSIDE LAMPS ALSO, WINDOW UPSTAIRS. AT USIS, GUARD ESTIMATES YOUTH GROUP OF 15 PAINTED SLOGANS ("U-2 DUTCH SPIES") ON WALLS AND SET FIRE TO PORCH FURNITURE PILED IN FRONT GARDEN. POLICE ARRIVED TO EXTINGUISH BLAZE AND KEPT BURNED CHAIRS AND TABLE AS EVIDENCE.

SECTION POLICE RESPONDED TO ALL THREE LOCATIONS AND CONSULATE OFFICER DISCUSSED TURMOIL WITH CITY POLICE COMMISSIONER. AT 1000 I CALLED ON EAST JAVA GOVERNOR WHO EXPRESSED PERSONAL REGRET AND STATED AMERICAN OFFICIAL HOUSES UNDER POLICE SURVEILLANCE FOR PAST WEEK. I SAID THAT I HAVE REPORTED INCIDENT TO EMBASSY AND THAT USIS HAD ISSUED SPECIAL PRESS RELEASE. I ADDED THAT ALTHOUGH DAMAGE NOT TOO GREAT AS IN FEBRUARY DEMONSTRATION, WHICH WAS RELATED TO WEST IRIAN CRISIS, I FELT WORSE ABOUT THIS BECAUSE IT IS UNRELATED TO CUBAN SITUATION.

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